

[English]

Allocation of Funds for JRY

5687. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for the current financial year to Punjab under the various employment schemes like JRY;

(b) the details thereof, Scheme-wise;

(c) the details of employment opportunities likely to be generated through these schemes; and

(d) the steps taken to increase allocations under these schemes for Punjab with a view to generate more employment opportunities in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) an Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are the major employment schemes being implemented throughout the country, including State of Punjab. The total tentative allocation to Punjab under JRY during the financial year 1997-98 is Rs. 1217.19 lakhs and the employment generation target is 17.45 lakh mandays. EAS is a demand driven scheme and as such no targets are fixed under the scheme. Under IRDP Rs. 269.39 lakh have been allocated to Punjab during 1997-98. From 1995-96, under IRDP no targets are fixed.

(d) Under JRY and IRDP allocation to the States/ Union Territories are made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in the State to the total rural poor in the country. Funds under EAS are released on the basis of population of the block.

Irrigation Project on Panchanan River (Bihar)

5688. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from State Government of Bihar about an irrigation project in Bihar sharif on Panchanan River/ Tributaries in Nalanda district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No such proposal has been received in Central Water Commission from the State Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Accelerated Water Supply Scheme

5689. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Jalgaon of Maharashtra covered under Rural Accelerated Water Supply Scheme during the current year and the extent of success achieved in this regard; and

(b) whether any proposal for increasing the pre-determined target is under consideration of this Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) According to the Quarterly Progress Report for the period ended 31st December, 1996, 29 habitations were covered with safe drinking water facilities during April, 1996 to December, 1996 under the Rural Water Supply Programme benefiting a population of 2.045 lakh.

(b) No, Sir. The District-wise targets are fixed by the State Governments.

[English]

Drought Threat in Maharashtra

5690. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra has been facing the threat of drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof, till date; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) According to the information

received from the Government of Maharashtra, 1906 villages in six districts are affected by drought conditions in varying degrees due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 1996. The details of the districts and the affected villages are given below :

Sl. No.	District	No. of Affected Villages
1.	Raigarh	2
2.	Dhule	89
3.	Ahmednagar	150
4.	Bhandara	1097
5.	Chandrapur	355
6.	Gadchiroli	213
Total		1906

(c) The State Government undertakes necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. Government of India have released an amount of Rs. 51.15 crores as Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 and Rs. 9.00 crores from the Central share of CRF for 1997-98 in order to enable the State Govt. to undertake necessary relief measures in the affected areas.

White Paper on Defence Preparedness

5691.DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the alarming reports appearing in various newspapers, journals etc. regarding India's defence preparedness;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by his Ministry to allay the fears and apprehensions of the people in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to issue a White Paper on defence preparedness; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government continuously assess possible threats to national security, and ensure the maintenance of

adequate defence preparedness.

(c) and (d) There would be no particular advantage from the publication of such a White Paper.

AIDS Control Programme

5692. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "World Bank fumes over inept use of AIDS" as reported in the Economic Times dated March 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the action plan work out for 1997-98 for control of AIDS in the country

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period ending 30th April, 1997, 1,118 HIV positive and 12 AIDS cases have been reported from Goa.

A comprehensive scheme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS with World Bank committed credit of US \$ 84 million was launched in September, 1992. The scheme was approved at Rs. 222.6 crores during the period 1992-97. Against this, an expenditure of Rs. 275.22 crores has been incurred as on 31-3-1997. Under the World Bank Loan agreement approximately 84% of the expenditure is eligible for disbursement. The less utilisation of the credit in dollar terms is owing to appreciation of dollar vis-a-vis INR. It is not a fact that World Bank "fumed over inept use of AIDS funds". In fact, in the latest review by the World Bank mission in November, 1996, the project performance has been rated as satisfactory.

(d) The scheme for the prevention and control of AIDS in India is being implemented as a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme in All State and Union Territories including Goa. Funds are released to them on the basis of their Annual Action Plans. A statement indicating provisional allocation of funds to States/UTs during 1997-98 is attached.